

February 17, 2005

Dear Friend,

Every February the President presents his budget to Congress. When Congress eventually passes a budget, it should reflect the values and priorities of the American people. The budget for fiscal year 2006 proposed by President Bush on February 7, 2005 does not reflect our values and its priorities are misplaced. We can do better.

The President has again submitted a budget that is fiscally irresponsible, creating trillions of dollars in new deficits that threaten our economy, and slashes funding for critical domestic initiatives. In other words, more of the same. And the President's budget is actually even worse than we are being led to believe because the record deficits predicted do not include additional funds for Iraq, the cost of his scheme for privatizing Social Security, and the outrageous cost to our grandchildren to make his misguided tax policies permanent.

I support a responsible budget plan that emphasizes economic growth and job creation, fully funding education for our children, financial security for working families, providing the benefits our veterans deserve, and ensuring our national security. Unfortunately, the President's budget falls short in almost every one of these respects.

The facts are startling. In 1999 we had a ten-year projected surplus of \$5.6 trillion. Now the Office of Management and Budget forecasts the President's budget creating a record deficit in 2006 that will top \$400 billion. While creating \$4.5 trillion in new deficits over the next 10 years, the President simultaneously fails to increase funding for critical homeland security programs to match the rate of inflation, increases health care costs for over two million veterans, and cuts funding for education initiatives by \$530 million. His budget also cuts \$60 billion in Medicaid, a program of critical importance to many New Mexicans, and undermines programs that are critical to rural communities and small businesses. For more information on the impact of the President's budget in New Mexico, please [click here](#).

Very truly yours,

Tom Udall  
Member of Congress